

BUNGALOW BURNS: ARREST.

Flower Manufacturer Accused of Third Degree Arson.

Accused of arson in the third degree, Joseph Piser, manufacturer of artificial flowers and feathers, No. 623 Broadway, was arrested there yesterday.

Detective Cook, on the staff of District Attorney Weeks, Westchester County, and Detective Behan of the First Branch Bureau, here, apprehended Piser on a bench warrant, issued after his indictment. He will be arraigned in Westchester County.

A bungalow at Larchmont Gardens, which Piser owned, was burned last Aug. 10. The police say they found pairs of kerseys and stumps of candles in the ruins. Piser, they assert, admitted he went to the bungalow to change his clothes on the morning of Aug. 10. They add that Piser had \$5,000 insurance on the bungalow with the Royal Insurance Company.

FINGER PRINTING OF AUTO SPEEDERS URGED BY JUDGE

Magistrate Murphy Believes Identifying of Old Offenders a Necessity.

600 ARRESTS A MONTH.

New Methods of Dealing With Reckless Drivers Needed; Evil Is Growing.

If a city had an epidemic of cholera and somebody discovered a remedy that would stop the epidemic, they'd use it.

They wouldn't ask the patients whether they liked the medicine or not, either.

So says Judge Daniel F. Murphy of the Women's Night Court.

The Magistrate wasn't talking about cholera. He was discussing New York's six-year-old and ever-growing epidemic of automobile speeding and its train of men and women and children sent by thoughtless and reckless drivers to the hospitals and cemeteries.

Finger printing is the remedy, he asserts.

"I notice," said Magistrate Murphy, drily, "that a good deal of opposition has developed to Police Commissioner Wood's suggestion that finger prints be taken of every automobile driver convicted of speeding. Why wouldn't they object? They object to being fined."

"Finger printing would furnish a positive means of identifying old offenders. Then, as the law provides, when a defendant has been three times convicted of speeding a notice could be sent to the Secretary of State requesting that his license be revoked. This method has never been tried. I am confident the magistrates would be glad to try it."

500 KILLED IN FIVE YEARS IN TWO CITY BOROUGHS.

On Magistrate Murphy's table was a mass of figures. They showed that in New York City every month there are six hundred arrests for speeding; that in five years more than five hundred persons, most of them children, have been killed by automobiles in Manhattan and the Bronx; that so far in 1915 there have been 3,793 speeders arrested in these boroughs, with the result that 1,969 paid trifling fines, 949 went to jail for short terms and 549 paid no penalty at all.

Every one of the convicted speeders, the Magistrate pointed out, and every one of those convicted in years past in the local courts, can repeat his offense over and over, and, except in rare cases, not be recognized as a former offender.

"We have a problem," declared the Magistrate, "such as no other city in the world has. We have come to the place where we have got to try something new. In five years I cannot see we have gained anything at all. What we have tried is a failure. 'Some believe a jail sentence is the only effective cure. I doubt that. There are instances in which a speeder ought to go to jail, but there are many more cases where a jail sentence would be out of proportion.

Most of these men who drive so fast through crowded streets have no intention of violating the law. They do it thoughtlessly. Still, they continue to do it."

Judge Murphy was asked what would be necessary to put the finger print plan into operation.

"There is now in effect," he replied, "an ordinance which permits the Board of Magistrates to extend the finger printing system to cover other violations of the law. To apply it in this matter would require only a resolution of the Board."

"It is true the class of offenders whose finger prints are taken are not a particularly pleasant company. The system is now applied to those convicted of prostitution, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, petty theft, jostling and picking pockets. It is not our desire to humiliate anybody, but what else shall we do? When a man's finger prints are on record for speeding, he is going to remember it. If he will think as he ought to think there will never be any necessity for taking his finger prints in the first place."

"I believe Commissioner Wood's suggestion is the one method that will compel automobile drivers to be more careful. To drive recklessly or even thoughtlessly through crowded streets is criminal."

FIRE STOPS TWO COURTS.

Fire caused by excessive heating of a furnace in the basement of the building of the Children's Court at No. 102 Court Street, Brooklyn, forced a hurried adjournment of the court to-day. Smoke from the scorched woodwork poured into the office of the Clerk of the First District Municipal Court on the first floor and the Children's Court room and detention rooms on the floors above.

Justice Ryan left the bench of the Children's Court and directed Matron Fogarty and Agent Dorr of the Children's Society to bring down the two-

ty boys and girls from the third floor to the head of the broad stairway leading from the second floor to the street, where they were held until firemen had torn out the smoldering woodwork.

The First Municipal Court next door was also adjourned by Justice Rosenthal temporarily.



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